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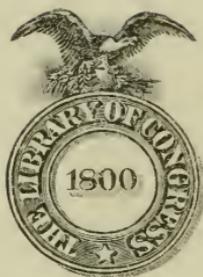
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No. 10

City history club of New York.

Excursion ... No. x. - Historic
Richmond.

= N. Y., 1908 =



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EXCURSION
PLANNED FOR THE
CITY HISTORY CLUB
OF
NEW YORK

BY

GEORGE W. NASH, M. D.,

No. X—HISTORIC RICHMOND,

Compiled from the "MEMORIAL HISTORY OF STATEN ISLAND,"
by IRA K. MORRIS, and from information given by many
friends on the Island.

PRICE, 10 CENTS.

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OBJECT.—The City History Club (founded in 1856) has for its object, the study of the history of the City of New York, in the hope of awakening an interest in its past development and traditions and in the possibilities of its future, such educational work being for the improvement, uplifting and civic betterment of the community.

To that end a series of historical excursions was planned which, from time to time, it has been found necessary to revise in order (1) to correct errors due to misinformation, of which even standard books of New York history are not entirely free; (2) to keep pace with the march of improvements whereby the topography of the City is constantly changing; and (3) to add material as new light is shed on the past and as new tablets and monuments are erected to mark historic sites.

By its efforts, literature, lectures, and by these historical excursions interest in City history *has* been awakened since the organization of the Club, and many students have devoted their time to research and study of life in old New York. To those who, influenced by their example, desire to enter upon the fascinating acquisition of knowledge of our great City's growth, the following books will be helpful: Todd's "Story of New York" (Putnam); Goodwin's "Historic New York," two bound volumes composed of 24 monographs; "The Half Moon Series," which may be purchased separately (Putnam); Hemstreet's "Literary Landmarks of New York" (Putnam); Janvier's "In Old New York" and "The Dutch Founding of New York" (Harper); Hemstreet's "Nooks and Corners of Old New York" and "When Old New York was Young" (Scribner); Innes' "New Amsterdam and Its People" (Scribner); Ulmann's "Landmark History of New York" (Appleton); R. R. Wilson's "New York Old and New" (Lippincott); reproductions of noted historical maps and pictures of Old New York (Dunreath Publishing Co.). **SPECIAL WORKS** include: "Annals of Staten Island," by J. J. Clute (1877); "History of Richmond County, New York," edited by R. M. Bayles (1887); *Staten Island Magazine*, Vol. I, Nos. 2 and 3, Aug. and Oct., 1888; "Proceedings of the Natural Science Association of Staten Island," Vols. I-IX, 1883-1903, and (under the Society's new name), "Proceedings of the Staten Island Association of Arts and Sciences," Vol. I, 1906-07; "Staten Island Names," by William T. Davis, with a very **valuable map** by Charles W. Leng, and "Supplement to Staten Island Names," by William T. Davis, both pub. by the Natural Science Association, New Brighton, Staten Island, N. Y.; "Memorial History of Staten Island," by Ira K. Morris, 2 vols., 1898 and 1900.

Thanks are due to Wm. T. Davis, Jas. H. Innes and E. H. Hall for valuable suggestions and criticisms for this Excursion.

The City History Club would greatly appreciate corrections and additions to the points covered in this excursion, especially if authorities are quoted.



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STATEN ISLAND—HISTORICAL SKETCH.

The Indian name of the island was "Aquehonga Man-ack-nong," meaning the place of the high, sandy banks; in some old documents it is called "Eghqua-hons," which has the same meaning.

Previous to the coming of the white man, the island was occupied by the Raritans, a branch of the Delawares, under tribute to the Mohawks. Traces of the shell heaps made by the Indians are found in various parts of the Island.

With the coming of the European, the history of Staten Island is wrapped up with that of the neighboring territory.

Verrazano discovered the island in 1524. On September 2, 1609, Henry Hudson anchored in the Lower Bay and first saw the island, which was named "Staaten Eylandt" as a memorial to the States General of the Netherlands, under whose directions he was sailing.

The first settlement was at "Oude Dorp" (old town) early in the period of the Dutch colonization. Among the first settlers were the Rapaelje family, who were connected with the first white inhabitants of Long Island.

The Indians sold the island repeatedly; first to Michael Pauw in 1630, the first patroon, who called his grant "Pavonia." In 1639, David Petersen de Vries, obtaining a grant from Governor Van Twiller, introduced some settlers. In 1641, Cornelis Melyn was made a patroon and the third attempt to settle the island was made at Oude Dorp. The Indians destroyed this village in 1641 and again in 1655, after which it was never rebuilt. (But see Note, p. 24).

In 1658 the Waldenses founded a village at Stony Brook; which lasted until the middle of the eighteenth century, when it crumbled away. The latter part of the seventeenth century saw the Huguenots settling at Marshland, now Greenridge. During Kieft's misrule, the island suffered with the adjoining territory the ravages of the Indians.

The English settled on the island in Stuyvesant's time and finally, in 1664, it came with other Dutch possessions under the British rule of Governor Nicolls, his first act being the capture of a block house on Staten Island. The setting off of the island from New Jersey was due partly to the difficulty of collecting the taxes; the Duke of York, to whom his

NOTE.—The island contains about 40,280 acres; the greatest length is a little over 13½ miles and the greatest breadth is 200 feet over 7¾ miles.

brother, the King, had previously given New York, on this account decided in 1668 that all islands in the harbor that could be circumnavigated in twenty-four hours should belong to New York, otherwise to New Jersey. Captain Billopp successfully accomplished the feat in the prescribed time and the island was adjudged to New York. A tract of land was awarded to him and he established the Manor of Bentley, near what is now Tottenville. New Jersey disputed this decision and the question was only satisfactorily settled in 1833. In 1673 the island was retaken by the Dutch, but was finally restored to the English on February 9, 1674. In 1679 the Labadists visited the island, and it is from them that so much of the everyday life of the colonists is known. The island was made into Richmond County in 1683; in 1688 it was divided into the towns of Northfield, Southfield, Westfield and Castleton; Middletown was established in 1860. Cucklestowne, now Richmond, was made the county seat in 1729.

As headquarters of the British during the Revolution, the island was under martial law; many of the inhabitants were lukewarm to the patriot cause.

Sir William Howe brought his forces here July 3, 1776; his brother, General Howe, made his headquarters here also. The British erected forts at various places: at times the Americans attempted to oust the British, and on their part the British made excursions from the island to the neighboring country. The British troops vacated the island on November 25, 1783, when many of the American Loyalists moved to other parts of the British Empire.

By act of Legislature, slavery was abolished on July 4, 1825, when the fact was much celebrated. (See No. 12.) The island was governed by about seventy different boards until 1898, when it became the Borough of Richmond of Greater New York. It now feels the same impulses that exist in the other boroughs.

EXCURSION No. X.

For Excursion from Manhattan take the Staten Island Municipal Ferry, at South Ferry, to St. George.

Figures refer to Map I, pp. 12-13.

SECTION I.—ST. GEORGE TO HOWLAND'S HOOK.

Walk up Jay Street to South, then up.

(1.) **Borough Hall**; here are the rooms of the Staten Island Association of Arts and Sciences, containing, among other relics, the only **mile-**

stone known to exist on the island; it stood at the corner of Signs Road and Richmond Turnpike on the post route between New York and Philadelphia; all that is now to be made out is

Miles
to
N. YorkE.

(2.) **Fort Hill**, at the head of Fort Place, just above Sherman Avenue; here can be seen a masonry cavern used formerly as a reservoir, and also the outlines of a British fort.

Walk back to Tompkins Avenue; go north.

(3.) **Castleton Hotel**; burned November, 1907, occupying the site of the old St. Marks Hotel, at the corner of Nicholas Street and St. Marks Place; St. Marks Hotel was constructed out of the old "Marble House," built by Gilbert Thompson as a private house and at one time occupied by August Belmont; the large building opposite is the High School.

Walk down Nicholas Avenue to and along the Terrace.

(4.) **Pavilion Hotel**; between Church Street and Westervelt Avenue, now a tenement house; it was built in 1822 as a residence for Thomas E. Davis, and later became a hotel for wealthy Southerners.

(5.) **Hessians Springs**; north on Jersey Street and parallel to it, off the Terrace; now utilized by the Hessian Springs Ice Company. It was once the most noted resort near New York, and was so called from the Hessian camp located here during the Revolution; there were two redoubts here on the heights at the entrance to the Kills.

Near-by, on the shore, Gilbert Thompson, son-in-law of Gov. Tompkins, built a schooner, in which he conveyed his family to Mexico; later it was used to bring Santa Anna, after the Mexican War, to Staten Island; he lived in the DuBois House; see No. 19.

Near-by was the site of *Belmont Hall*, where Isaacs' department store now is, between Westervelt Avenue and Jersey Street. It was built in the 18th century as a private residence and was used for many years by Major Duff, a West Pointer, as a military academy. The major became colonel of a New York regiment in the Mexican War and died in Mexico.

(6.) *John Drake Sloat* lived where the Muralo office now stands, between York and Franklin Avenues; the house was destroyed by fire and was one of the oldest residences in New Brighton.

(7.) "**The Cement House**" or "**Ward House**," at the corner of Franklin Avenue, is nearly a century old; it is so called from being the first house built of cement blocks. It was the property of George A. Ward, who is said to have closely resembled George Washington.

Continue on the Terrace.

(8.) **The Neville House** or "**Stone Jug**," at the corner of Tysen Street; now a hotel and was built about 1770 for a residence by Captain John Neville, U. S. N.

(9.) **Sailors' Snug Harbor**, an institution for old and disabled seamen. It was planned by Capt. Thos. Randall and founded by his son, Robert Richard Randall, who bequeathed his property, the Minto farm, just south of Union Square, Manhattan, for this purpose. Alexander Hamilton and Daniel D. Tompkins helped prepare the will, and Gov. DeWitt Clinton aided in securing the charter. Though founded in 1801, on account of litigation, the corner-stone of the institution was not laid until 1831 and the first buildings were opened in 1833. The annual income from the rents of the Manhattan property yields about \$400,000 a year.

There are accommodations for about 1,000 inmates, all of whom must have been native-born citizens or must have served five years under the American flag. In all cases they must have served "before the mast."

Continue on the Terrace to Davis Street.

(10.) **The Kreuzer-Pelton House** at the Cove. It was built by Rolph in 1722 and later came in the hands of the Kreuzers. It was the headquarters during the Revolution of Gen. Cortland Skinner, commandant of Skinner's "American Loyalists," and was occupied for a time by Prince William, who later became King William IV. Here Cruzer, Barnum's lightning calculator, was born. It was bought by Daniel Pelton in 1830, and his daughter, Mrs. Gen. Duffie, still lives here.

On September 9, 1609, Henry Hudson sent out a small boat from his ship, the *Half Moon*, then in the Narrows, to explore the Kills; when opposite the Cove, at West New Brighton, they were attacked by the Indians from the shore, and an English sailor named Coleman, who was in command of the boat, was killed by an arrow; his remains were taken to Sandy Hook (some say Coney Island) and buried, the place being still called "Coleman's Point."

Go down Bard Avenue to Henderson Avenue, at the N. W. corner of which see

(11.) The house where **George William Curtis** lived.

Return to Richmond Terrace.

(12.) **Swan Hotel**, a shingle-sided building opposite the Post Office. It stood originally on the adjoining ground and was the political centre of Staten Island; here, in 1825, the recently freed slaves of New Jersey, Staten Island and Long Island celebrated their emancipation.

(13.) *Fountain House site*, between Van and Water Streets, now occupied by a store near the Church of the Ascension. The house, built in 1750, was the headquarters of the British officers attached to the fort, which stood where the church is located; it was burned, as a war measure, by Gen. Sullivan. It was the scene of the first public ball on Staten Island; the phrase "fiddler's change" originated here, as it was customary to take up a collection for the musicians after each dance. It was also the local political headquarters. When the house was torn down in 1895 a painting by Milburn the artist, who stopped here in 1840, was discovered.

Walk to the square bounded by the Terrace, Dongan, Bodine and Cedar Streets.

(14.) *Dongan House site*, owned by the English Governor, Thomas Dongan (1682-1688), who in 1687 "purchased a manor house and some 25,000 acres of ground" on Staten Island, which he formed into the "lordship and manor Cassiltowne." The house was his hunting lodge. He lived here until 1791, when he had to flee during the Leisler troubles. The estate went to his nephew, Arthur Edwards (Marcus Benjamin, in Wilson's Memorial History, says to the heirs of Walter Dongan, then to a Mr. Williamson). The house was destroyed by fire in 1878. Indian remains have been found near-by in the sand bank, and at the foot of the embankment was a famous spring, a meeting place for Indian harvest festivals and treaty making.

(15.) The **DeGroot House**, of Dutch architecture, at the corner of Columbia Street. DeGroot is the Dutch for LeGrand, the name of the original French family.

Side trip along Columbia Street.

(16.) The **Scott-Edwards House**, at the N. W. corner of Columbia and Prospect Streets, was the residence of Judge Edwards, the first Supreme Court Justice on Staten Island under the Republic; he was the grandson of Jonathan Edwards and a cousin of Aaron Burr.

(17.) The **Tyler House**, Clove Road, here a continuation of Columbia Street, and Broadway; it was owned by Mrs. Juliana Gardner, mother of President Tyler's wife. It was bought in 1878 by Hon. W. M. Evarts and later occupied by the Russian Consul-General. The park has been cut up by speculators.

Continue on the Clove Road.

(18.) Oldest **Corsen House** on the island, a few rods west of Richmond Turnpike. It was built about 1690.

Britton Mill, near Clove Lake, was the scene of local romances.

Return on Clove Road to Cherry Lane, then south on Manor Road.

(19.) The **DuBois House**, on the N. W. corner; General Santa Anna lived here (see No. 5).

Go west on Cherry Lane to

(20.) The **Decker House**, on Barrett Street, just off Cherry Lane; the Decker family descended from Johannes de Decker, who arrived in 1655.

Walk north on Decker Avenue and continuing streets to the Terrace at Port Richmond.

(21.) **Danner's Hotel**, the old Port Richmond Hotel, also called the St. James Hotel, near the corner of Richmond Avenue. It stands on the site of the Revolutionary Fort Decker and was built soon after the war, as a private residence; it became a hotel in 1820 and was then the largest hotel in the county. Col. Burr was a guest of the Winant family and died here in September, 1836. 1854-1856, it was the headquarters of the Know-Nothing or American Party. Its name has been changed many times, and it is materially changed from the original building.

There was another fort west of this locality.

(22.) **Van Pelt Academy**, behind the Post Office at Port Richmond on the Terrace just west of Richmond Avenue, was once a famous school under the management of Dr. P. I. Van Pelt, minister of the Reformed Church; it is now a furniture shop.

(23.) **Dutch Reformed Church**, a short distance up Richmond Avenue from the Terrace, opposite Church Street; it is on the site of the church

burned during the Revolution; the Sunday School is said to be the oldest in the United States. See **tablet** over the front door.

Go up Richmond Avenue, nearly opposite Harrison Street; see

(24.) **The Jacques House**, now Progress Hall; also called Harrison House. It was built by Isaac Jacques, a New York merchant and a descendant of the French Count Jacques, who came to this country toward the end of 17th century. The willows came from St. Helena, the box-wood from Mt. Vernon and the fence from the residence of Mr. Jacques in Whitehall Street in Manhattan.

Walk along the Terrace to the Linseed Oil Mills.

(25.) **The Housman House site**, S. W. corner John Street. The original Housman came to America in 1675 or 1676.

(26.) **The Lake-Croak House**, between Bay and Simonsen Streets. The land on which it stands was part of a lot granted by Sir Edmund Andros to John Lee, Dec. 16, 1680.

(27.) **The Post House**, on the Terrace, in the grounds of the Milliken Iron Works.

(28.) **The DeHart House**, next the car barn, a short distance east of Holland Avenue. This house is over 150 years old and was once a school.

There is an Indian graveyard on Holland (Howland) Hook, and on the heights at the approach to the ferry were two British forts.

Go south on Western Avenue, under the R. R. bridge, to Old Place.

See two or three old houses on the right, on the old Daniel Jones place.

(29.) **Old Place Mill**, a little east, on Washington Avenue; some of the foundations are still to be seen on the edge of the creek on the right side of the road.

Some distance farther east, opposite Harbor Street, stood until 1904 the *Van Pelt Cottage*, over 200 years old.

Go east on Washington Avenue past the school-house, and on the opposite side of the avenue, near South Avenue, see the

(30.) **Van Pelt-Decker House**; the house stands a little back from Washington Avenue. Tradition says that the American forces found Van Pelt in bed; he was summarily pulled out of bed and forced to accompany the troops into New Jersey; the next day his wife succeeded in getting clothes to him, and he fought with the patriot army. Later his wife kept a tavern for soldiers of both armies.

SECTION II.—ST. GEORGE TO NEW SPRINGVILLE.

Take the trolley at St. George for Elizabeth Ferry and change to Bull's Head car at Port Richmond, passing

(31.) *Butler's Hotel site*, at the head of Washington Avenue; this was a favorite resort of the sporting fraternity; during the Revolution it was occupied by British officers as headquarters; burned in 1892.

Get off the car at Vedder Avenue, walk east to Willow Brook Road and then south to Watchogue Road.

(32.) **Pero-Christopher House**, at N. W. corner; across the road see

(33.) **Mersereau House**, where Col. Joshua Mersereau lived and from which he had a hairbreadth escape during the Revolution; the British commander had put a price on his head.

Southeast from Watchogue Road and Willow Brook Avenue, see

(34.) **The Vreeland House**, now an Italian tenement.

Walk east on Watchogue Road to Prohibition Park.

(35.) **The Corsen-Ives House**, at the corner of St. John Street. Ives was at one time the bicycle champion of the United States.

(36.) *Bodine's Inn site*, at Castleton Corners; it was built by David Jacques before the Revolution; was made a hotel later and became the home of the actor Keene during his last days.

Walk south on the Willow Brook Road to Willow Brook; among the willows back of the ice-house, see

(37.) **The Christopher Homestead**, where the Committee of Safety met during the Revolution; it was reached by secret paths through the swamps; many Americans were captured while trying to reach it.

Walk back to Richmond Turnpike, then west to Richmond or Old Stone Road.

(38.) *Bull's Head Tavern site* at the corner; it was built in 1741, and was a Tory headquarters and the scene of many outrages; burned 1890.

Continue south to New Springville.

Long Neck, now known as New Springville, was the third oldest settlement on Staten Island.

(39.) *School House site*, where the present building stands; the original school was built in the 17th century; the old stone was used in the present building.

Walk south to Rockland Avenue, then east to

(40.) *Corsen House site*; the Corsen family is one of the oldest on the island; the earliest mention of the name is in 1680. There are some fine family relics in the house, which stands on the old site.

Get information here as to route to the wolf pit.

(41.) **Wolf Pit**; reached by a pleasant trip through the woods to the north, or it may be visited from No. 34. The pit was built many years ago by Captain Jones, who owned the surrounding woods. It was covered with brush and leaves and was baited with a piece of meat hung from a sapling just above it; the wolf would leap to this and fall through the brush into the hole.

Go back to the village and, at the corner of Union Street, see

(42.) **The Old Crocheron House**; a little farther west is

(43.) **The later Crocheron House**, which contains some fine old furniture. John Crocheron, the founder of the family here, was a prominent Huguenot; to escape execution in France he hid in a hogshead on board a vessel by which his neighbors were coming to America. His will was dated December 13, 1695.

Walk along Union Street to Richmond Turnpike, then toward Travisville.

(44.) **The Ridgeway House**; a long, low building, south of the road in the field. At Linoleumville, then called New Blazing Star, was a Revolutionary fort.

Return to New Springville, walk south on Richmond Road, now Broadway.

(45.) *La Blant House site*; built about 1690 by William, the son of Simon La Blant, who escaped from France during the Huguenot persecution, and on his arrival here was known as Simonson; he was the ancestor of the Simonson family in this country. The old house was of stone of the Dutch style of architecture, and, when it was destroyed, a brick building took its place.

Continue on Broadway.

(46.) **The Blake-Miller House**, built about 1668; it is situated on the left, a short distance from Union Street.

A short walk brings one to Karles Neck.

(47.) **The Barne-Tysen House**, stands off the road to the west; the family came from Holland in 1660 and received a grant of land from Sir Edmund Andros in 1667.

Walk back to Bull's Head and take the trolley home or follow the Richmond Hill Road to Richmond, where the car may be taken for St. George.

SECTION III.—ST. GEORGE TO ARROCHAR.

Take the trolley or walk along the streets near the shore through Tompkinsville and Stapleton.

(48.) **Old Health Officers' Residence**, the only remains of the former Quarantine property, now owned by the Am. Cotton Docks Co., next to the U. S. Light-House Reservation. The landing was the site of an old fort.

Walk along Central Avenue to Arietta Street.

(49.) **Quarantine Ferry Landing**, at the foot of Arietta Street, passing the R. R. Station where was the site of Nautilus Hall (built about 1800); this hall was a popular political resort, because "out of the way"; it was the scene of receptions to Lafayette, Garibaldi, Van Buren, Tompkins, Scott, Seward and others.

At the corner of Griffin and Arietta Streets, see

(50.) *The Dutch Reformed Church site.* The church was built over 100 years ago and after many years used as a shop; it was demolished in 1907, to make way for a block of shops; Governor Tompkins aided in its erection.

Just above, on the south side of Sarah Ann Street, near the Richmond Turnpike, see

(51.) **General Van Buren's Home.**

Walk along Griffin and Bay Streets; see

(52.) **The Planters' Hotel**, at the N. W. corner of Grant Street, was a popular resort for wealthy Southern planters.

Go up Clinton and Church Streets; see

(53.) **The Pavilion Hill**, where are the remains of two Revolutionary forts; one may get a fine view from this hill.

Continue on Bay Street nearly to Congress.

(54.) **Commodore Vanderbilt's** later house.

Farther along, at the N. W. corner of Union Street, see

(55.) **Commodore Vanderbilt's** earlier home.

Continue on Bay Street.

(56.) **Seaman's Retreat**, in the rear of the U. S. Marine Hospital; it is over 100 years old. Just below in the vacant lot, corner of Bay and Simonson Avenue, is the site of the *first National headquarters of the Republican party*, where General Fremont received the news of his defeat in 1856.

Walk along Bay Street to Townsend Avenue.

(57.) *Townsend Castle site*, at the west end of the avenue; three brothers came about 1661 and founded the family; the house was burned in 1885 together with a number of fine historical paintings.

Follow New York Avenue to Chestnut Street.

(58.) **The Garibaldi House**, near Bachman's brewery, at the corner of Tompkins Avenue, it is marked by a **tablet** placed on it by the lovers of the Italian General, who lived here for some time. With him lived Antonio Meucci, the inventor of a telephone system, who died here in 1889. The house was presented to the Italian Government, and is now protected by a cement superstructure.

Walk east on Chestnut Avenue to Bay Street, then south.

(59.) **The Austin House** at foot of Clifton Avenue, said to have been erected in 1710 by a Dutch merchant; it is well preserved in the original style and contains many relics of the Revolution.

(60.) **Quarantine** at the foot of Cliff Street; a British fort was located here.

Continue on up Bay Street and New York Avenue to

(61.) **Forts Wadsworth and Tompkins**, established by New York State during the war of 1812. In 1847, the U. S. Government bought the reservation, demolished the old forts and built the present works, which have been constantly improved and brought up to date. It is said the first Dutch immigrants stopped here and a block house was erected here by DeVries; this was several times destroyed by the Indians.

The fort was rebuilt by the English in 1776. The last shot of the Revolution was fired at this fort by a British gunboat on Evacuation Day, 1783, because of the open derision expressed by the onlooking Staten Islanders. It is hoped to mark this fort by a tablet. Inside the reservation is the **Old Fountain House**.

(62.) **Arrochar** is reached from the fort by the railroad or one can walk there by way of Richmond Avenue. Arrochar Park was once

known as Oude Dorp (Old Town) and is the site of the first Dutch settlement on Staten Island, 1641. The village consisted of several log huts and was destroyed three times by the Indians. (But see Note, p. 24)

Walk along Ocean Avenue to South Beach.

(63.) **The Vreeland Homestead** at South Beach was recently destroyed.

Take the trolley back to St. George.

SECTION 4.—ST. GEORGE TO NEW DORP AND RICHMOND.

Take the trolley for New Dorp, passing

(64.) **Emerson Hill and House**, called "The Snuggery." It is in Concord, earlier called Dutch Farms, on the west side of the road, just beyond the Clove Road, where the trolley from the North Shore connects with this line. The house was built by William Emerson, Judge of Richmond County, 1841-1843, not far from his original house, "The Snuggery." Ralph Waldo Emerson spent some time here; Henry Thoreau was a teacher in the family.

(65.) **The Clinch Homestead**, near Spring Street, Concord, opposite the hotel; it was built about 1700, and was the early home of Mrs. A. T. Stewart.

Further on, at Garretson, on the east side of the road, see

(66.) **The Perrine Homestead**, built about 1683. The village was named for John C. Garretson, whose two-century-old mansion here has lately disappeared. Opposite is Todt or Toad Hill, one of the high points on Staten Island. An old oak tree used by the Indians and later by the whites as an outlook, was destroyed some years ago by wind.

New Dorp, originally the name of the site at the Elm Tree Light, now embraces also Stony Brook; here General Moncton rested with his army several weeks after the French and Indian war, during which time Sir Jeffrey Amherst was invested with the Order of the Bath, October 25, 1761.

The trolley car passes on the right

(67.) **The Moravian Cemetery**, within which is the Old Moravian Church and Parsonage (now used as the cemetery office); the original plot for this cemetery was bought on June 9, 1763, for \$124.08½, being part of the estate of Governor Dongan (see No. 14); the Vanderbilt family have added largely to the church property; the corner-stone of the old church was laid July 7, 1763; in the cemetery are many graves antedating the church. See the Vanderbilt mausoleum.

(68.) **The Aaron Cortelyou Homestead** opposite the cemetery gate ; it is also called the Lake or Gifford House.

SIDE TRIP TO ELM TREE LIGHT.

Leave trolley at New Dorp Lane, then walk east ; cross the R. R. track, passing on the left

(69.) **The Jacobsen House**, built by Christian Jacobsen, a sailor ; during the Revolution, British soldiers entered the house and fatally shot him ; his will is dated January 10, 1782.

Nearly opposite, see

(70.) **The W. H. Vanderbilt House**, now owned by George Vanderbilt.

Near the foot of the lane, see

(71.) **The Cubberly House** ; the original name of the family is Coverle ; the first of the name came in 1769 ; see the quaint kitchen.

At the extreme end of the lane, see

(72.) **Elm Tree Beacon**, the landing place of the Huguenots, 1650 to 1655. There was a chain of British breastworks near the shore ; the old *Track House*, until lately, stood on the Vanderbilt farm at the foot of the lane.

On Coles Avenue, see

(73.) **The Lake Tysen House**, situated in the field ; the Lake family settled on the island in 1670, coming from England. The house is kept in its original condition by the descendants of the builders.

To the south, see

(74.) **The Guyon-Clarke House**, at the foot of Guyon Avenue. It is an early Huguenot house, where was organized a British Masonic Lodge ; see the old clock in the hall, and the land patent signed by Sir Edmund Andros.

The Club House, near by, was frequented by the most prominent people of the island.

Not far away to the south on the Boulevard, see

(75.) **The Cole House** ; the family came to America in 1639, by way of Holland, where the name was changed to "Kool" ; in America this became Cool, then Cole.

Nearly opposite, on the edge of the marsh, see

(76.) **The Lockman House Ruins** ; the lintel piece, now in the possession of Mr. Hetherington, of Giffords, bears the inscription, May 22, 1782.

Return to New Dorp by way of Tysen Avenue to Amboy Road, passing through

(77.) **Stony Brook**; the original Waldensian settlement in 1658 (Note, p. 24), the second oldest settlement on Staten Island, and the County Seat from 1683 to 1827. Here were Staten Island's first Court House and Jail, 1683; first Church, 1670; first Whipping Post (witches were punished here); first market or trading place; first marriage.

The old *Britton House* was here; the site is just about opposite Tysen Avenue, on the west side of the road; it was built between 1650 and 1660 and demolished in 1896, being one of the oldest structures on Staten Island. It was used as a court house; the family were driven out during the Revolution, and the colonel of one of the British mounted regiments had his headquarters here; it was also used as a small-pox hospital. In early days it was the scene of an Indian massacre, where a whole family was killed.

Continue to New Dorp, see

(78.) **The Black Horse Tavern**, at the corner of Amboy Road and Richmond Road, a resort of British officers during the Revolution.

Opposite, at the head of New Dorp Lane, is the site of the *Patten House*, built in 1836 or 1837 to accommodate the crowds who came to see the New Dorp races along the Lane. It was a favorite resort of the Vanderbilts; in its later days it was used as a Roman Catholic institution and finally as a tenement.

(79.) *The Rose and Crown House* stood a little to the north of New Dorp Lane on the west side of Richmond Road; it was built by early Huguenot settlers, and was the birthplace of Bishop Bedell; while the headquarters of Sir Wm. Howe, here he and his brother first heard the reading of the Declaration of Independence; later it was occupied by British officers, among them General Knyphausen; it was torn down in 1854.

(80.) **The Fountain House**, on the opposite side of Richmond Road and just above the Black Horse Tavern, recently remodeled; it is possibly the oldest house remaining on Staten Island. Here Margaret Moncrieffe stayed and met Captain Coghlan; here, also, Lieut. Sidney A. Simonson was born. Near by is Camp Hill, a British gambling resort.

Take trolley to Richmond, passing at the bend of the road, just beyond New Dorp village, the duelling ground of the British officers.

(81.) **The Grote House**, later occupied by Dr. Rotton, just beyond the corner of Egbertville and Rockland Avenues; it is over 100 years old and

was originally the home of Colonel Richard Connor (?), where Aaron Burr made his last call. Above the ravine is the old **Egbertville Academy**.

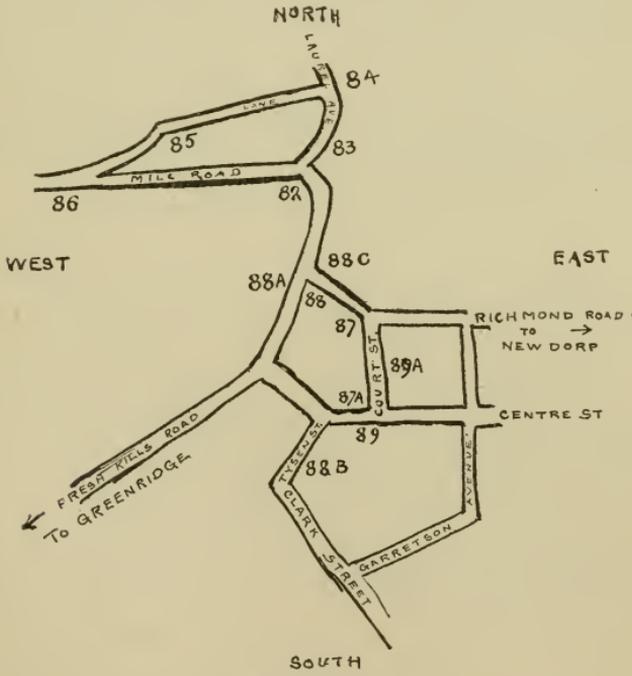
Richmond, formerly Cuckoldstowne or Cucklestowne, became the County Seat in 1827.

At the end of the trolley line turn to the north.

(82.) **St. Andrews Church**, one of the four churches established (1708), by Queen Anne; the church has still part of the silver service given by her to the church; it was occupied by the British as a hospital and was the centre of two Revolutionary fights. The original building was built in 1713. See memorial **tablet** to commemorate Anne's gift in 1708 (to be unveiled October 21, 1908).

On the hill where the school house stands were

(83.) The *Whipping Post*, removed 1825, and the *Gallows*, the scene of the first execution in the county. (See Map No. II).



MAP No. III.

(84.) Later **Latourette House**, made of brick; see

(85.) The older *Latourette House ruins*—a council of war took place here leading to the battle of Springfield. It was the headquarters of

Lt.-Col. Simcoe, commanding the "Queen's Rangers." The Holmes family, ancestors of Nancy Hanks and Abraham Lincoln, once lived in this house. The earliest mention of the Latourette family is in 1726.

(86.) **Old Mill.**

Return to the Village on the Mill Road.

(87.) *The Barton House and old Cuckoldstowne Inn site*, corner of Richmond Road and Court Street, behind the County Clerk's office; this was the headquarters of General Cleveland, chief engineer of the British Army; here it was that Andre wrote his will.

(87A.) **County Clerk's office.**

(88.) *Second County Court House site*; building destroyed by the British in the Revolution (the first was at Stony Brook); the site was occupied for many years by the Richmond County Hall and since 1890 by St. Andrews Parish House.

(88A.) **Third County Court House**, occupied by the Board of Supervisors, October, 1794, for the first time. In 1837 it was a dwelling and now a hotel,

(88B.) **Fourth County Court House**, on Tysen Street, now in use.

(88C.) **Second County Jail, 1727**, where now the street leads to Richmond Road. The first jail was in Stony Brook.

Nearly opposite was

(89.) *Old Dutch Reformed Church*, original site; built 1808. See graveyard near by.

(89A.) *Site Old Dutch Reformed Church* (second location, foundation may still be seen).

There were three Revolutionary forts in Richmond, all on the hill above St. Andrew's Church: one about 300 yards from the church, one still standing about a third of a mile west, and another on the hill overlooking the meadows, where the Bedell graveyard is located.

Richmond was the site of the camp of the Seventeenth British Dragoons, the only regular British cavalry regiment in the Revolution; they acted as General Clinton's bodyguard.

SECTION 5.—ST. GEORGE TO GREENRIDGE AND GREAT KILLS.

Take the trolley at St. George to Richmond; then the Fresh Kills Road to Greenridge, called in the early days Marshland and Fresh Kills, passing on the right, just across the bridge,

(90.) *Benham Mansion ruins*; the house was built by Commander T. G. Benham when he was a Lieutenant in the Mexican War; it was burned down 1897. *Pass on the right* the **Cortelyou House**, of late Dutch architecture, to the road leading to the right to the mill, now a cement block factory; see the picturesque ruins of the **millwheel** behind the building.

Pass on the left

(91.) *Bedell House site*, built in 1670, and a little farther on the site of the "*House by the Mill*," built in 1685; the latter house was a military storehouse during the Revolution; near it was a British fort and a Dragoon camp. Two battles were fought here. The Bedells came to America 1673, settling on Long Island, settling on Staten Island a century later, 1767; see mention of the family in the county records, where Silas Bedell rendered a bill for doctoring.

(92.) *The Seaman House site*, at the S. E. corner of Fresh Kills Road and Eltingville Road; this was the home of Benjamin Seaman, the last of the Colonial judges in Richmond County; he went to New Brunswick after the Revolution. The house was burned in 1890.

(93.) *The Huguenot Church site*, where the present barn stands on the Seaman estate; it was built between 1680 and 1695; the spot is to be marked with a stone; in the old churchyard were buried the last of Staten Island Indians in 1826.

Return on Fresh Kills Road to Giffords Lane, then south.

(94.) **Small Stone Building** on the west side of the lane, a few feet from Fresh Kills Road; it is said that this is one of the houses where courts were held years ago.

(95.) "**Holy Spring House**," on the east side of the lane, at the corner of Dewey Avenue, in the hollow by a big tree. The earliest Roman Catholic services on this part of the island were held here.

Continue to Giffords, called Great Kills.

(96.) **Old School House site**, near the Post Office and store of J. W. Hetherington, where may be seen relics of the Poillon family and other relics. Go down Hillside Avenue to the Boulevard, where are situated the three following Poillon houses built about 1694:

(97.) **The "Seguine House,"** a few feet east of Hillside Avenue.

(98.) **The "Erastus Wiman House,"** a short distance west of Hillside Avenue. Wiman did a great deal to awaken Staten Island.

(99.) The "**Woods of Arden House**," quite a distance farther along, near Townsend Avenue. The name was given by Wiman. The *Journeyay House* ruins are passed on the way.

There was an Indian burying-ground in Great Kills.

Seguine's Point was the scene of a riot in 1857 on account of the attempt to establish here a quarantine station. The quarantine buildings were burned and the County was forced to pay the State \$100,000 damages. A floating hospital for yellow fever cases was located here in 1859. In 1860 **Swinburne Island** was made by filling in, and in 1873 **Hoffman Island** was made in a similar manner, and so Seguine's Point was freed from the terror of contagious diseases.

Return by Townsend Avenue to R. R. stations at either Eltingville or Annadale.

SIDE TRIP TO ROSSVILLE AND WOODROW.

Follow Fresh Kills Road to Rossville; previous to the Revolution this was called "Smoking Point" and "Blazing Star."

(100.) **Old Mill**, where Richmond Creek empties into Fresh Kills.

(101.) **Oakley House**, near the foot of Rossville Avenue, sometimes called Shea's Lane; it was the birthplace of James A. Bradley, the founder of Asbury Park; Bishop Asbury was entertained here soon after his arrival from England.

It is claimed that the old stone house that stood until 1850 on the farm of Samuel W. Benedict, near Rossville, was built by David Petersen de Vries, who came here from Holland in 1636 and established a bouwerie on Staten Island. There was a military redoubt at Rossville near the Decker House.

Walk down Rossville Avenue to Woodrow Road, then turn east.

(102.) **The Winant House**, used by Tory marauders; a quantity of silver was found in the cellar several years ago.

Opposite is the **Methodist Church**, on the site of the first M. E. Church on Staten Island and the second in America, about 1787 or 1788.

Walk across Huguenot Lane and follow Journeyay Avenue.

(103.) **Peter Van Pelt House site**, known as the Nolan House, destroyed in 1904; it is located just back of the present Nolan House. Bishop Asbury preached here shortly after his arrival in America.

Return to Huguenot Lane, then south to Huguenot R. R. Station.

SECTION VI.—ST. GEORGE TO TOTTENVILLE.

Take the train to Tottenville, passing through Richmond Valley.

(104.) *The Old Tabernacle Ruins*, built 1822 as a place for Methodist worship.

Tottenville was formerly known as the Manor of Bentley.

(105.) *Union House site*, between the two shipyards on Railroad Avenue, at the foot of Tyrrell Street. It was built in 1784 and was originally the Johnson farmhouse; it was in the parlor of this house, later used as a barroom, that Commodore Vanderbilt married his cousin, Sophia Johnson.

Walk along Broadway to Church Street, then over the mill dam.

(106.) *The Disosway-Cole Mill site*, over 100 years old at the time of its destruction; some of the foundation stones can yet be seen at the end of the dam to the left.

Return to the village, then follow Broadway, Main Street and Amboy Road to the Lane and Bentley Avenue.

(107.) **The Billopp House**, built about 1668 by Christopher Billopp, who in 1668 aided New York's claim to Staten Island by circumnavigating the island in one of his own vessels in less than 24 hours; his reward was the grant of 1,163 acres on the south shore, which he named for his vessel "Bentley Manor." His grandson, Christopher, Jr., was a loyalist and was carried off for ransom by some American Rangers and kept until exchanged for an American prisoner. He was again taken but was freed by Washington at Howe's request. After the war he went to live in Nova Scotia.

In this house took place an interview between Howe and an American committee, composed of Adams, Franklin and Rutledge, after the battle of Long Island, but no satisfactory agreement was reached. There have been several attempts to get the State to buy and preserve the house. The old family burying-ground has disappeared, but two old gravestones lean against the veranda. Sir Henry Clinton, Generals Robertson and Knyphausen and Major Andre visited here. Near the house is an old Indian burying-ground. At the present writing, a small fee is expected on being shown over the house.

Continue to the extreme point of the island.

(108.) *Fort ruins*; the fort was started by the War Department during the Spanish-American War; blocks of concrete can be seen.

(109.) *Garretson House site*; the boat-house keeper on the beach will show the way across the meadow to Belmont Street; then walk to Man-

hattan Street to Arlington; a bungalow is now on the site. The family is Dutch and came here in 1660, from Holland, bringing with them a certificate of good character and good deportment from the burgomaster of their native city. There was a Revolutionary fort at Kreisherville.

SIDE TRIP TO PRINCESS BAY.

Get off the R. R. train at Princess Bay Station and walk south on Princess Bay Road.

(110.) **Purdy's Hotel** on the shore; it is nearly 200 years old, but well preserved.

A short walk along the shore brings one to

(111.) **The Androvette House.** The family took up land in 1699.

(112.) (113.) The sites of *British forts.*

Return by train to St. George.

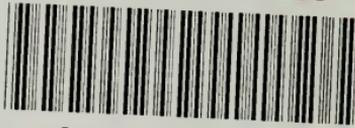
NOTE: Mr. James H. Innes thinks that Oude Dorp was not built until 1662-63 by Stuyvesant, on the order of the West India Company to fortify points on either side of the Narrows. In 1661 he informed the Company that all the houses in Staten Island had been destroyed during the Indian wars. Later he wrote that the village had been built about one-half hour's walk from the Narrows, there being no convenient place nearer the water. It was visited by the Labadists in 1679 (see their Journal in the L. I. Soc. Memoirs), when there were seven houses, three only inhabited, the people having removed on account of the poor soil to "Nieuwe Dorp."

He doubts that the Rapaelje family ever settled in Staten Island, or that Waldenses founded Stony Brook, there being no documentary proof of these statements extant (see Nos. 62, 66, 77, pp. 3, 15, 16, 18).

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